

# THE ALMA RECORD.

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WHOLE NUMBER 1873

## COMMITTS SUICIDE

Former St. Louis Man Kills Himself At Saginaw

## NO APPARENT REASON

Rash Act Committed at His Home In Saginaw

Otto H. Doane, a resident of Flint, and a former resident of St. Louis committed suicide at his home in Flint, Saturday, January 16th. The case is an unusual and very sad one and it is thought that the deceased was not in his right mind at the time of his death.

It was at first thought that the cause of his act was the fact that he was unable to secure employment but this was found not to be true. He was a tool maker in the employ of the Weston-Mott company of Flint and was considered a capable and trustworthy man by his employers. Voluntarily and for no special reason he gave up his position several days before his death. The foreman of the factory had repeatedly asked him to return.

Several years ago Doane was one of a party of young men who made a motor-cycle trip from Flint to Indianapolis. He fell from the machine while on this trip striking his head very severely. The general opinion among his friends is that he has not been his former self since that time.

The evening of his death his wife left their home and everything seemed apparently to be all right. She returned within a short time and found his lifeless body with a bullet hole in his right temple, lying on the bed beside the cradle in which his eighteen months old child.

No apparent reason can be given for his rash act, he was very happily married and had a child, a nice home and a good position.

Deceased was born in Forest Hill, 31 years ago, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Doane, who now reside at Mt. Pleasant. They moved to St. Louis when he was very young and he obtained his education in the St. Louis schools, graduating from the high school in 1901. He was very well known and was always a studious and ambitious fellow.

O. F. Mey of St. Louis an uncle of the deceased went to Saginaw, immediately on receipt of the news of his death and the body was brought to Alma, Tuesday. The funeral services were held at the home of his brother, E. H. Doane of this city, Wednesday afternoon and interment was in the local cemetery.

## COACH BLEAMASTER

Speaks Favorably of Evangelist Elmer P. Looze

When a comparative stranger is called to labor in a community it always increases our confidence in his worth when some one whom we know personally, can speak of him from personal knowledge. For a number of years Coach W. C. Bleamaster was a neighbor of Mr. Looze in Waukesha, Wis. Upon learning of Mr. Looze's coming to Alma Mr. Bleamaster wrote the following letter to the chairman of the Executive committee. The letter speaks for itself. It is as follows: My Dear Mr. Mason:—

I have known Mr. Looze for several years and am glad indeed that he is coming to Alma. His influence among the young people of our community will be powerful and enduring. He is a man who believes in the practical application of the Christian spirit; a man that every one loves and respects; a man of fine Christian character, and a human dynamo in energy. Mr. Looze's services are much in demand and Alma is very fortunate in securing such a man.

Yours sincerely,

W. C. BLEAMASTER.

The Executive committee is rapidly completing the plans for a great campaign and with the co-operation of the whole community a movement of high religious importance is surely ahead of us.

## PROMINENT MIDDLETON RESIDENT DIES

Jacob Smith a well known resident of Gratiot county passed away at his home in Middleton, Tuesday, January 19th. For several weeks before his death he had been confined to his home suffering from heart disease and asthma. He is survived by his wife and one daughter, Mrs. Adah Bolyard of Middleton and one son, John H. who is engaged in the real estate business in Ithaca. The funeral was held at the Methodist Episcopal church, Friday, January 22. Interment was in the family lot of the Middleton cemetery.

## INTERESTING LETTER RECEIVED

A very interesting letter has just recently been received by J. H. Stafford from Robert Mountjoy located at Taft, Wales. The letter informs Mr. Stafford that many of the women and children of the Belgians are being supported throughout England by the people. There is naturally a very bitter sentiment among the people against the Germans. However, the business of the country proceeds as usual.

The writer of the letter was formerly employed at the Ford plant in Detroit and has not been called into service because he formerly served in the English army during the Boer war. It is one of the rules of the service that all of those who have formerly served in active fighting are to be among the last to be drafted.

## FARMERS' MEETING AT WHEELER

A farmer's meeting will be held at the town hall in Wheeler February 10th, at 2 o'clock p. m. Speakers from Grand Rapids and Six Lakes will be present and a fine program is being arranged. Several farm subjects will be presented and discussed. Among these "Spraying" and "Growing of Cucumbers" are conspicuous.

Specimens of San Jose scale and black knot will be exhibited and their treatment and that of other fungus diseases discussed. These discussions will be practical, interesting to all, and of immense value to every farmer who wishes to be up to date. Everybody is invited to be present and take part in the discussions.

## CARNEGIE MEDAL

Awarded Relative of Agnes Thompson Who is Well Known Here

The friends of Miss Agnes Thompson of Alma will be interested in hearing of an award to a member of her family, made at the last meeting held some two weeks ago of the Carnegie Hero Fund commission. At that time her niece Miss Florence Murray of Stratford, Ontario, Canada, received a bronze medal and an award of one thousand dollars to be used for educational purposes. The Stratford papers contained the following account of the matter.

"Miss Florence Murray of this city has been awarded a bronze medal from the Carnegie Hero Fund commission for her bravery in rescuing from drowning in March, 1912, J. Ballantyne Thompson, aged six years. Miss Murray who was twelve years of age at the time, was previously awarded a medal from the Canadian Royal Humane society in recognition of her brave act which took place at Avonton."

"It will be recalled that young Thompson had gone to the extreme edge of a cake of ice which overhung the water of the Avon river, and the ice broke under him. He fell into the water five feet deep, and came to the surface four feet from the bank. Miss Murray ran to the edge of the ice, and although she could not swim, jumped into the water beside Thompson, who had gone down and came up the second time. She put one arm around him and used the other arm to paddle toward the bank, her clothing keeping her from going under the water. Other children formed a chain on the bank and by their aid Miss Murray and the Thompson boy were pulled out, both recovering from their experience."

## SEVERE STORM

Railroad, Telephone, and Telegraph Companies Hard Hit

The worst storm of the winter was the welcome guest of the city from Sunday noon until late Monday night, causing considerable damage.

A flurry of snow fall on Sunday morning which was followed by rain and sleet, Sunday afternoon. This later turned into a driving snow with a furious wind and low temperature, which continued until late Monday night.

The hardest hit by the storm are the telephone, telegraph and railroad companies. Poles were snapped off and wires were broken in a great many places. This was especially so in the outlying districts where the wind had a full sweep.

It was impossible Monday to communicate in any way except by mail with other cities. Telegraphic and telephone communication was entirely cut off. Crews have been at work repairing the wires and it is hoped that by the time this article is off the press the repairs will have been made.

## PASSENGER INCREASE

Ann Arbor Officials Plea for Increase in Rates

## BOARD OF TRADE DIRECTORS

Draw Up Resolutions Favoring Higher Rate

A hearing was given the officials of the Ann Arbor railroad by the Directors of the Board of Trade at the president's office, January 27 in regard to an increase in passenger fares throughout the state of Michigan.

H. S. Bradley the traffic manager of the road presented a strong argument assuming that the rates for passengers.

W. A. Bahlke the president of the board drew up the following resolution, which was passed by a unanimous vote by all of the directors present.

Whereas, it appears to the Alma Board of Trade, a corporation of the city of Alma, Michigan, organized for the purpose of promoting the general welfare of this city and vicinity, that, assuming that the rates for passenger service upon the railroads of the state as fixed by the legislature in 1907 were reasonable and just, the changes in conditions since that time in cost of operation of railroads, such as cost of labor and materials, etc., have so materially increased as to make the passenger rates so fixed in 1907 unreasonable and unjust in 1915, and consequently insufficient to enable the railroads of this state to receive a reasonable return upon its investment and satisfactory service as demanded by the people.

And believing, upon the basis of said assumption as stated above, that fairness and good faith towards the railroads of Michigan requires and demands that people of the State of Michigan grant to the railroads the increase in passenger rates asked for and as hereinafter stated.

Therefore be it resolved, by this corporation through its Board of Directors of twelve representative men of this city, that it is the sense of this corporation and of its members and its board of directors, that the legislature of this state by prompt action fix the rate of passenger service upon the railroads of this state in intrastate business as follows. Upon railroads in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, two and one half cents per mile basis, and in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, three cents per mile basis, and that such rates prevail until it shall have been legally determined that the same are unreasonable and unjust.

Further that the senator and representative of this senatorial district and county of Gratiot respectively are hereby requested to use their influence and vote in favor of legislative action.

## APPOINTED MANAGER OF VESTABURG ELEVATOR

Roy McGillvary, who has been the efficient bookkeeper and assistant manager in the Elkton Elevator Co.'s plant at Elkton, for the past three years, has been promoted to be general manager of the Vestaburg Elevator Co.'s plant at Vestaburg, Mich.

Mr. McGillvary is splendidly qualified for his new position; he has been an apt student in the somewhat peculiar field of business created by the prominence of the elevator of today; has made a close study of its methods, and his judgement in the successful handling of farm products is acknowledged as exceedingly satisfactory to buyer and seller alike.

## WAR IS

Five hundred forty thousand killed and 21,600,000 wounded with a total expense of \$19,000,000,000. This is the result of six months' fighting on the battle fields of Europe. Stop and consider these statistics, nineteen billion dollars and two million, seven hundred thousand battle field victims.

That the art of war is growing more deadly is proved by the fact that during the Crimean war it took two full years to kill 485,000 men. It is estimated that our own Civil war took the lives of one million men in four years. The Russo-Turk war in 1877 took 180,000 lives in less than a year. In two years of the Russo-Jap war 555,900 men were killed. The actual cost of killing one man is placed at \$20,000.

Those who purchased tickets for Miss Hutchinson's recital will please hold them until February 27, when she will appear at the M. E. church.

## "UNCLE JOSH JINKINS" BOOKED FOR 17th

"Uncle Josh Jinkins" will be the attraction at Wright opera house on Feb. 17, 1915. This company has been placed on the circuit in response to the demands of the managers who have insisted that they be provided with a laughing show—and one that will entirely please all classes of theatregoers. The story will compare favorably with "Way Down East" or "The Old Homestead"—and has a thread of heart interest that holds to the final fall of the curtain.

Interspersed within its four acts are numerous specialties and comedy galore. All the old time familiar characters are in it. The Deacon, The Widder, Uncle Josh, The Town Clown, all combine to make an evening of pure fun, all fun. That is the aim of this production, which is equipped with adequate scenery to give it an artistic presentation. The company is the best that can be procured for the special characters that they represent. And lastly the prices are within the reach of all.

## PUBLIC IGNORED

Connections Made Impossible On Evening Trains By Railroad

An unusual situation and one that is a great inconvenience to the traveling public exists in the train schedule at the station in this city. The north bound evening train on the Ann Arbor road and the east bound evening train on the Pere Marquette road are both due to arrive at Alma at 8:50. If the trains are on time it is impossible for the passengers on the Ann Arbor line desiring to change here for Saginaw or any cities or towns on the eastern road to make connections and consequently they are held up here over night.

For some unknown reason the Pere Marquette is given the preference over the Ann Arbor road at the local station. The Ann Arbor which arrives at 8:50 stops south of the crossing and the eastern train pulls out making a change of trains impossible. A wait of two minutes would increase the earnings of the P. M. considerably and also assist the public.

## CAPITAL STOCK INCREASED

Alma State Savings Bank Increases Stock From \$25,000 to \$40,000

A special meeting of the stockholders of the Alma State Savings bank was held Tuesday afternoon, January 26. The meeting was called for the purpose of amending the articles of incorporation of the bank for the purpose of increasing the capital stock of from \$25,000 to \$40,000. An

## DESIGNS TRUCK

Detroit Firm Manufactures Truck Constructed By G. E. Porter

## APPOINTED CHIEF ENGINEER

Truck Designed By Him A Proven Success

Gilbert Earl Porter the son of G. B. Porter, the optometrist, of this city has just recently been elected to the office of chief engineer and head draftsman of the Wilson Motor Truck company of Detroit.

Porter is very well known here and has occupied prominent positions with automobile concerns throughout the state. He was one of the organizers of the Admiral Truck company of St. Louis, which went into the hands of the receiver about a year ago. He was the designer and head foreman for this company which constructed a very good truck but did not have the financial backing to make it a success.

Immediately after the failure of this firm, he designed and built a sample truck and then made overtures to the Wilson Body Co., of Detroit, manufacturers of buggy and automobile tops, to build his truck for him. The company paid him a salary while he designed and constructed a sample truck and when the machine was finished immediately built factory space for the exclusive manufacture of these trucks. Porter was then given his present position. The Wilson truck was the first machine sold at the Detroit show, the purchaser buying about an hour after the show had opened.

He was born in Alma in 1883 attending school here and graduating from the local high school in 1900. He designed and built an automobile and a gasoline engine while he attended the high school and was looked upon as a mechanical genius. For several years he was a mail carrier in the city, later going to Detroit and working in different automobile factories, acquiring a great deal of knowledge and experience.

so rapidly that it was found necessary to move to larger quarters. At a meeting of the stockholders held October 4, 1910, the purchase of the Vermuelen block which is now the Bahlke block on the south side of Superior street was authorized. The building was completely remodeled and reconstructed and was ready for occupancy in the fall of 1913 when the bank first occupied their present quarters.

## FARMERS' INSTITUTE THIS WEEK

The Gratiot County Farmers' club are to hold their institute at the Wright opera house, today and tomorrow. The members of the Farmers' club have planned this institute for some time and hope to make it the best of its kind that has been held in the county in years.

The meeting today will open with prayer by Rev. Mason, which will be followed by the judging of the corn display at the Alma State Savings bank followed by a discussion on corn.

Discussions on the farm, poultry and the dairy will be given during the afternoon and lectures will take up the evening meeting.

A fine program has been prepared for Friday several well known speakers are on the list.

## POPULAR STUDENT

Enters Pulpit At Carson City After Completing Course At College

Joseph Kennedy, a very well and favorably known young man, among the townspeople and students at Alma college, completed his course at the college the 29th obtaining a degree of Ph. B. He left for Carson City, Saturday, January 30 and will occupy the pulpit of the First Congregational



church of that city, until September when he intends to continue his schooling, at McCormick seminary in Chicago.

Kennedy was born in Chicago and received his education in the public schools of that city, graduating from the high school in 1909. Next attended the Chicago Musical college for one year and then entered Alma college where he has been for the past three years.

During his college career he has taken an active part and interest in all of the affairs of the school. Has supplied churches in Clare and Carson City.

Rumors have been circulated that Kennedy is to be married some time during April.

## DRINKS ACID

Floyd Fenner Tries To End Life This Morning

Floyd Fenner a blacksmith and son of H. F. Fenner a well known blacksmith in this city attempted suicide this morning by taking two ounces of carbolic acid. He was immediately rushed to the Blauvelt Hospital where after two hours work he was revived. At present he is conscious but is suffering terribly from the effects of the acid and apparently has not any desire to live.

Domestic troubles are supposed to be the cause of his rash attempt of today. Mrs. Fenner left him several days ago and it has been generally known that for some time they have not agreed and that he had threatened to kill her.

## POULTRY FANCIERS

Attended Show At Alma Last Week

## EXHIBITION A SUCCESS

Many Entries From The Poultry Raisers Throughout County

The exhibition given at the Studebaker garage, by the Central Michigan Poultry association, on January 25 to 29, was the most successful of its kind ever given in the county. Without exception everything was carried out in a capable manner. The entries amounted to about 325 and were from the best poultry raised in the county. Crowds attended the exhibition from the time the doors were opened to the public until the time that they closed Friday evening.

The officers of the association are to be commended in the capable manner that they carried out this show. They intend to put on another show at about the same time in 1916 and hope that it will be even better than this one.

A meeting of the Central Michigan Poultry association was held during the show at the Studebaker garage, last week, and the following officers were elected to serve during the coming year: President, M. H. Wells; financial secretary and treasurer, Bert Young; corresponding secretary, A. F. Smith; supt. show room, H. E. Culbert; chairman of executive committee, F. E. Boyd.

The remainder of the committee was chosen by the president as follows: Ray Besore, Alma; F. E. Litwiler, Middleton; Roy Bush, St. Louis; E. Bennett, Alma.

Excellent judgement was shown by F. W. Travis of Jackson who awarded the prizes for the birds that were entered. The following is the list of awards.

"Sweepstakes cup given by F. W. Travis of Jackson, Michigan, awarded to F. E. Boyd of Alma on American class.

Simplex Faultless Feeder, awarded A. R. Smith for the best White Orpington cock.

Special ribbon, highest scoring pen at show, M. A. Wells of Alma, also special ribbon for highest scoring hen.

Special ribbon, highest scoring pullet awarded to F. A. Wright of Mt. Pleasant, on White Leghorn.

Special ribbon for highest scoring cock in show, Charles F. Tuma, Carson City, white Leghorn.

Special ribbon, highest scoring cockerel, J. L. Smith of Alma, Rose Comb R. I. Reds.

Buff Leghorn Wilbur Price, Carson City, first cockerel.

Silver Wyandottes Joseph Henderson, Alma, second pen, third cockerel, first, second, third and fourth pullets.

Partridge Wyandottes E. A. Pearce, Breckenridge, first cockerel and first pullet.

Cornish Indian Game E. A. Pearce, Breckenridge, first cockerel, first and second pullet.

Silver Spangled Hamburg L. L. Wood, St. Louis, first pen, first and second cockerel, first hen, first, second, third and fourth pullet.

Herbert H. Young, Alma, second pen, third pullet, and third cockerel.

Sililian Buttercups W. W. Cox, Mt. Pleasant, first, second, third and fourth pullet.

Japanese Pheasant Fowls M. H. Wells, Alma, first cockerel, first pullet and first hen.

Model Anconas E. A. Phillips, Elsie, first, second and third pullets.

White Crested Black Polish M. H. Wells, Alma, first pen, first, second, third and fourth hen first pullet.

White Cochins Bantams William Seacord, Alma, first hen.

Black Breasted Red Malay Bantams Glenn Vine, Alma, first cockerel and first pullet.

Grey Call Ducks M. H. Wells, Alma, first drake, first and second duck.

Moscovy Ducks Hayden Millman, Alma, first and third duck and second drake.

Horace Stevens, first drake, second and fourth duck.

White Orpingtons A. R. Smith, Alma, first pen, first cock, second pen second cockerel, first hen first and third pullet.

J. A. Gardner, Alma first cockerel, second, third and fourth hen.

Harry Willard, Alma, second cockerel and 4th pullet.

Buff Orpington A. Shaw, Alma, first pen, first hen, first pullet, first cock, first and second cockerel, third hen and third pullet.

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